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FLOOR DEBATE

April 23, 2001 LB 536, 541, 543, 611

undersell the other farmers. Don't we talk about, when we're dealing with bills like the dairy compact, the dairies making money off the farmers, not giving them a minimum price, guaranteeing it, supermarkets making money and the farmer getting nothing? Well, now we're being asked to subsidize a program in Nebraska which will undercut other farmers within Nebraska, not an outside evil corporation, but evil hustling investors in this state who are working a shell game. And as we go on, I'm going to try to emphasize this point more and more until the public picks up on it as they picked up on the wrongfulness of trying to compel every retailer to sell ethanol in markets where there is no demand for it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk, items for the record?

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Amendments by Senator Wehrbein to LB 543 and LB 541; Senator Dwite Pedersen, to LB 611. Mr. President, an announcement, the Redistricting Committee will meet today upon adjournment in Room 1507, Redistricting, upon adjournment in Room 1507. That's all that I have, Mr. President, thank you. (Legislative Journal pages 1616-1617.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Baker, on the Dierks amendment, followed by Senators Kremer, Beutler, Schrock, Vrtiska, Dierks, and Chambers. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members of the Legislature, I also rise to support LB 536 and am going to speak just in general terms here. As a corn producer, I certainly support this bill. Sorghum producers also are stepping up to the plate and saying we'll contribute one-half cent per bushel. And I think people need to understand we grow one billion bushels of corn and sorghum in the state of Nebraska, that totals \$5 million we're willing to contribute to this program, that's out of our own pockets. It's that important to us that we step up to the plate, tax ourselves to the tune of \$5 million annually to support the ethanol production in the state of Nebraska. Why? Because it does create a new...a value-added market and also the by-products.